

A detailed comic book illustration of the character Spawn. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing his signature red, scale-like suit with silver spikes and a red cape. His grey, muscular body is adorned with thick yellow chains. He has a white, mask-like face with glowing green eyes and a menacing expression. His hands are clenched into fists, showing the texture of his skin and the details of his spiked gauntlets. The background is a solid dark red color.

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>

TRIUMPHS ON A DARK NIGHT

BY  
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WITH  
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AND  
FCO PLASCENCIA

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## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

The final pieces of Jim's connection to Project: RAGNOROK start to fall into place as Jim and Richard enact a brutal interrogation on the man known as the Agent.

An ex-analyst working under Director Kramer and Jason Wynn, the Agent was involved in selecting and vetting candidates for RAGNOROK's horrific "super soldier" experiments.

As the Agent weaves his tale, the true value of the information he possesses goes beyond his ties to The Program. He reveals that Jim, in his previous life as Director Kramer, was not responsible for the murder of the woman he loved, as he previously believed.



**Jim Downing (Spawn)** — A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the *Spawn* mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



**Director Kramer** — Before Jim Downing woke from his coma in *Spawn* #185 he lead a completely different life — was a completely different man, with a different name, different physical appearance and quite possibly sinister motivations driven by unchecked ambition. Director Kramer ran the clandestine government program, RAGNOROK and, unknowingly had a hand in crafting some of the darker aspects of the *Spawn* universe.



**The Program** — A clandestine military operation with deep-rooted ties to events from throughout *Spawn*'s 20-year existence. Hidden within the secrets of The Program, also known as Project: RAGNOROK, lies the truth Jim seeks, and the dark heart of a past better left buried.



**Richard Masullo (Tremor)** — Transformed into the hulking monster known as Tremor by the same clandestine government program that Jim Downing once oversaw, Richard is a man on a mission, crossing the country to confront Jim about their shared past — but is he friend or foe?



**The Agent** — A mysterious man with unknown ties to Jim's past. "The Agent" is responsible for hiring superpowered hitmen for a variety of illegal and, more often than not, violent tasks, including two previous attacks on Jim — the Extractor's firing assault on the hospital (issues #186-188) and the rampage of Patient 46 (issue #198).

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SPAWN CREATED BY  
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**image**

**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS  
**SPAWN.COM**





"THAT WAS THE MOMENT.  
THAT'S... WHEN EVERYTHING  
SEEMED TO CHANGE."

"NO ONE  
TRUSTED ANYONE  
AFTER THAT. AND  
IT ALL BEGAN TO  
UNRAVEL FROM  
THERE."

**GET  
UP!**

YOU CAN  
GRIEVE  
ABOUT THIS  
LATER.





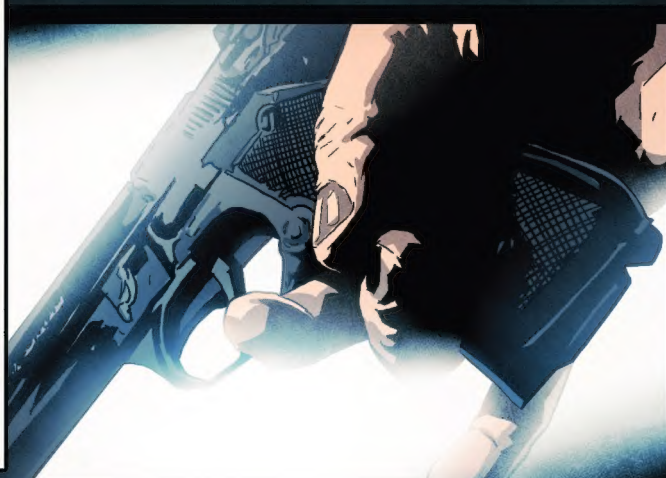
BECAUSE BEFORE WE GO-- THERE'S STILL SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO.

MY ORDERS ARE TO NOT LEAVE HERE EMPTY HANDED.



NOW-- GET UP, KRAMER!

THUNK



CHRIST-- LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE EVEN DUMBER THAN I THOUGHT.

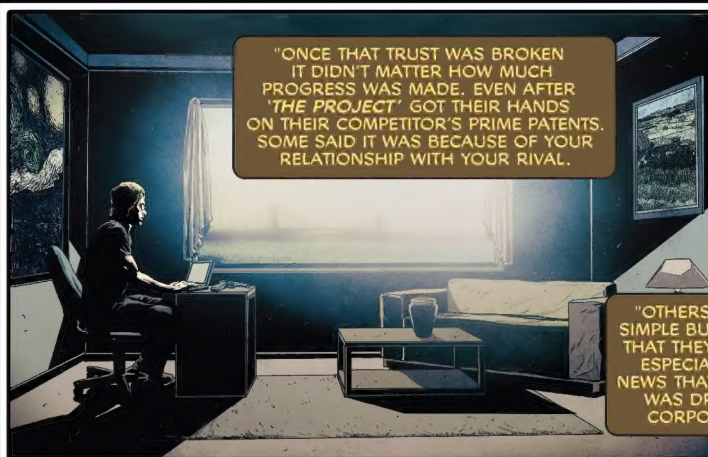
THERE WAS ONLY ONE BULLET IN THAT GUN AND NOW YOUR PRINTS ARE THE ONLY ONES ON THE MURDER WEAPON. THAT WON'T LOOK SO GOOD TO THE COPS.

SO BEFORE YOU GET ANY GRANDIOSE IDEAS ABOUT DOING SOMETHING HEROIC RIGHT NOW-- LET ME TELL YOU THAT WE KNOW WHERE YOUR ENTIRE EXTENDED FAMILY LIVES. **ALL OF THEM!** IF YOU THINK KILLING YOUR BRIDE SEEMED EASY... IMAGINE HOW QUICKLY YOUR SISTER, MOTHER, AUNTS AND UNCLES WILL DIE.

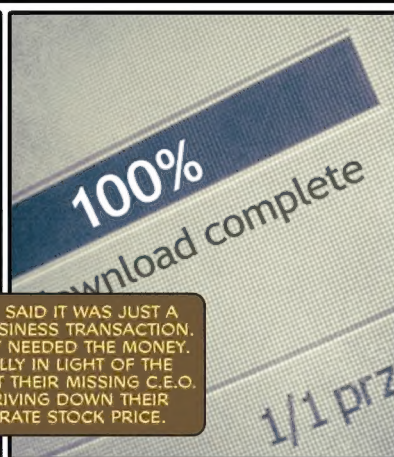


THAT IS, UNLESS WE GET WHAT WE CAME FOR. NOW GET OVER TO HER COMPUTER AND DO YOUR JOB!





"ONCE THAT TRUST WAS BROKEN  
IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW MUCH  
PROGRESS WAS MADE. EVEN AFTER  
'THE PROJECT' GOT THEIR HANDS  
ON THEIR COMPETITOR'S PRIME PATENTS.  
SOME SAID IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR RIVAL.



"OTHERS SAID IT WAS JUST A  
SIMPLE BUSINESS TRANSACTION.  
THAT THEY NEEDED THE MONEY.  
ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE  
NEWS THAT THEIR MISSING C.E.O.  
WAS DRIVING DOWN THEIR  
CORPORATE STOCK PRICE.



"WHATEVER THE REASON...  
PEOPLE TRIED PUTTING ON  
THE FAÇADE OF BUSINESS  
AS USUAL."

"I'M SORRY,  
WYNN. IT JUST  
TOOK A LITTLE  
LONGER THAN  
ANTICIPATED."

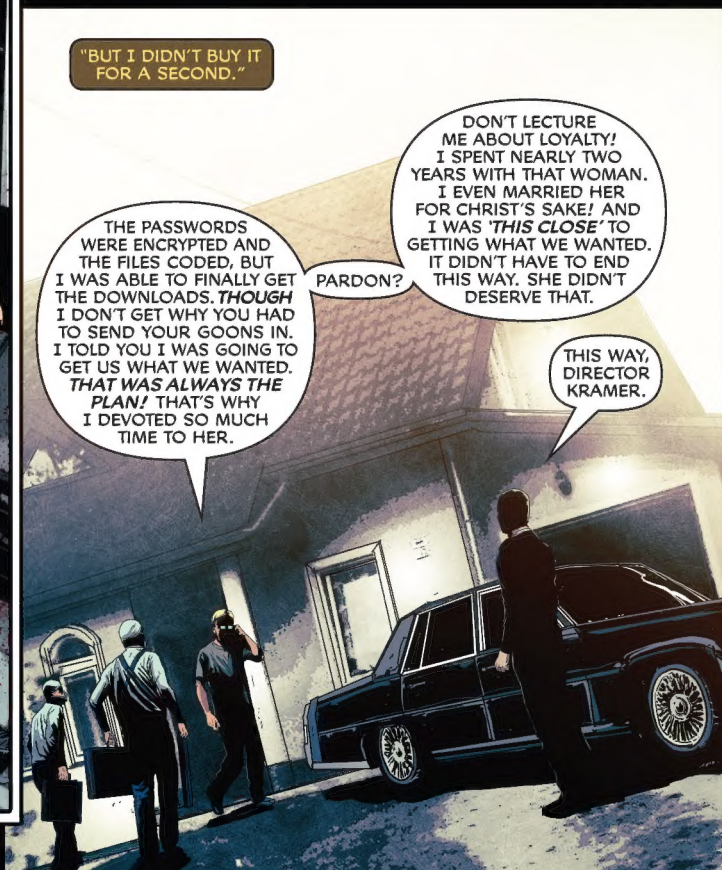
"BUT I DIDN'T BUY IT  
FOR A SECOND."

THE PASSWORDS  
WERE ENCRYPTED AND  
THE FILES CODED, BUT  
I WAS ABLE TO FINALLY GET  
THE DOWNLOADS. *THOUGH*  
I DON'T GET WHY YOU HAD  
TO SEND YOUR GOONS IN.  
I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO  
GET US WHAT WE WANTED.  
*THAT WAS ALWAYS THE  
PLAN!* THAT'S WHY  
I DEVOTED SO MUCH  
TIME TO HER.

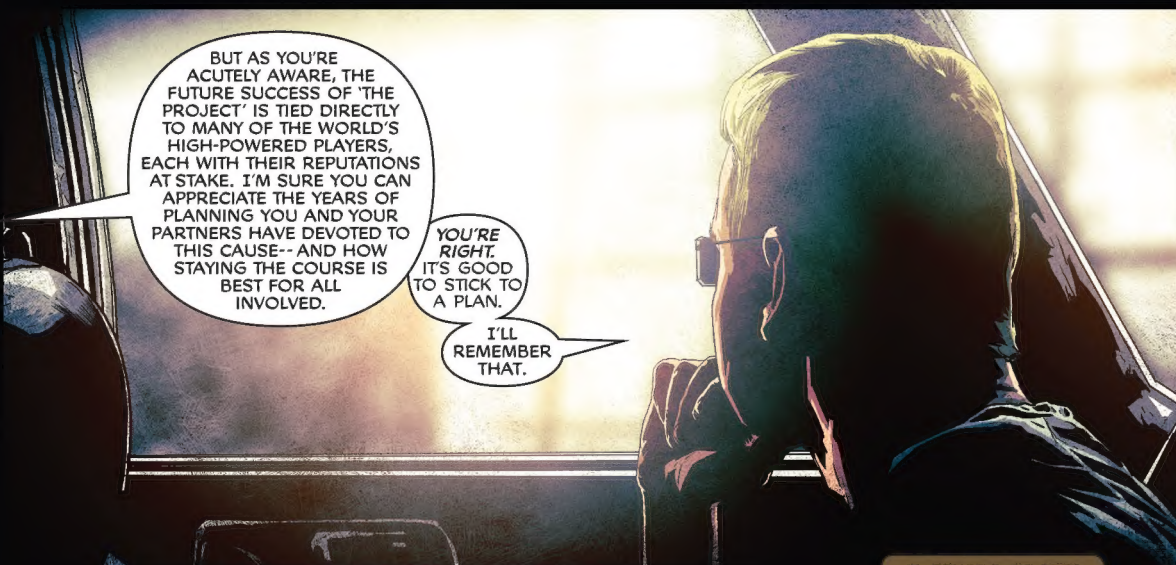
PARDON?

DON'T LECTURE  
ME ABOUT LOYALTY!  
I SPENT NEARLY TWO  
YEARS WITH THAT WOMAN.  
I EVEN MARRIED HER  
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! AND  
I WAS 'THIS CLOSE' TO  
GETTING WHAT WE WANTED.  
IT DIDN'T HAVE TO END  
THIS WAY. SHE DIDN'T  
DESERVE THAT.

THIS WAY,  
DIRECTOR  
KRAMER.

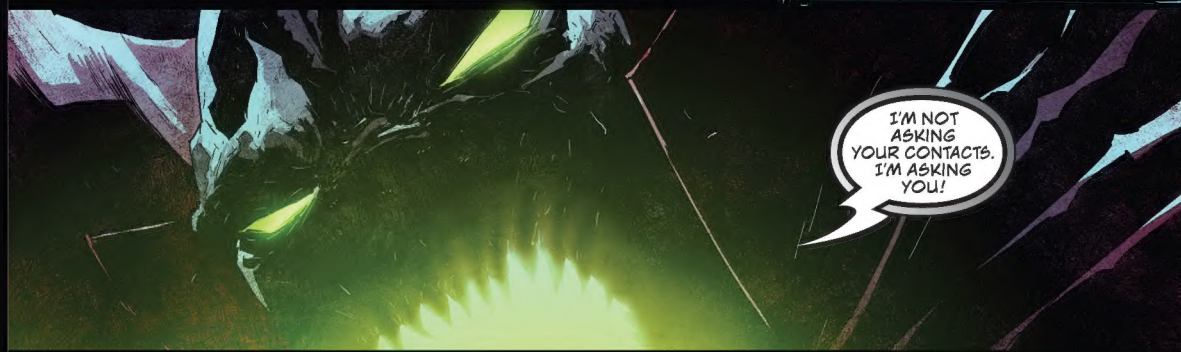






"EVERYONE STARTED COVERING THEIR OWN ASSES AFTER THAT..."







LOOK...  
WE'VE BOTH  
BEEN FIGHTING  
OUR PAST. AND  
WE BOTH WANT  
ANSWERS. JUST...  
JUST EASE UP  
A LITTLE.

WE'RE  
CLOSE. VERY  
CLOSE-- TO GETTING  
WHAT WE WANT. I THINK  
YOU SENSE IT TOO. SO  
LET'S PLAY THIS THING  
OUT AND TRY KEEPING  
EVERYONE ALIVE  
FOR NOW.

YOU THINK  
YOU CAN DO  
BETTER?



DON'T  
KNOW.  
BUT LET ME  
TRY.



SYKES?

YEAH...?



POPK



I HAVEN'T  
GOTTEN MY  
QUESTION  
ANSWERED,  
EITHER!

WHY WAS  
I SELECTED?  
WHAT MADE  
ME SO DAMN  
SPECIAL?





YOU WERE JUST A HIGH LEVEL MATCH IN ONE OF OUR MULTIPLE GENETIC CATEGORIES. WE WEREN'T **LOOKING** FOR THE PERFECT HUMAN BEING-- WE WERE TRYING TO CREATE IT!

BUT WE KNEW THAT WOULD REQUIRE DOZENS AND DOZENS OF PATIENTS. AND, IN HINDSIGHT, THAT WAS PROBABLY OUR BIGGEST MISTAKE.

THINK ABOUT THE NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES FOR HUMAN AUGMENTATION. HEARING. SIGHT. THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. BRAIN PATTERNS. SKIN DENSITY. I COULD GO ON FOR TWENTY MINUTES WITH A LIST THAT BREAKS DOWN THE MALE ANATOMY INTO A HUNDRED SCIENTIFIC AREAS.

YOU WEREN'T.

THE PROBLEM WAS THAT EACH OF THEM NEEDED SPECIALISTS AND A WHOLE NEW SET OF EXPERIMENTS THAT WERE TAILORED TO THAT PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE BODY. SO NOW, ASK YOURSELF THIS QUESTION: "HOW DO YOU KEEP EVERY ONE OF THOSE CAREER CLIMBING DOCTORS AND THEIR STAFF HAPPY?" GIVEN THAT THEY ALL WANTED TO BE THE FIRST ONES TO UNLOCK ONE OF THE GENE CODES FOR MANIPULATION!

AND BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF THINKING ABOUT IT-- I'LL GIVE YOU THE ANSWER. **YOU DON'T! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!**

EVERYONE WAS SERVING THEIR OWN AGENDAS! AND SO THE ELUSIVE 'PERFECTION' THEY WERE CHASING JUST BECAME MORE AND MORE F\*\*KED UP!

AND WHEN KRAMER OR WYNN-- OR WHOEVER WAS PULLING THE STRINGS-- TRIED TO PUT SOME OF THE SEPARATE EXPERIMENTS TOGETHER... WELL, THAT'S WHEN WE STARTED BACKSLIDING. THERE WAS NO FOCUS, NO SINGULAR VISION TO WHAT WE WERE DOING, AND SO INSTEAD OF CREATING PERFECTION WE BEGAN CREATING **FRANKENSTEINS!**

WE WERE OVER-THINKING EVERYTHING. OVER-KILLING THE ENTIRE PROCESS. HELL, THEY EVEN GAVE THAT NICKNAME TO ONE OF THE PATIENTS, I THINK.






WHERE  
DO I FIT  
INTO  
THIS?

I DON'T  
KNOW! KRAMER  
TOOK YOUR FILES  
FROM US! GO TALK  
TO HIM! OR ASK  
THE GUY BEHIND  
YOU. HE DID IT TO  
YOU... NOT ME!  
NOT ME!



I WASN'T  
ANYWHERE  
NEAR THE  
PLACE WHEN  
THEY  
'ACQUIRED'  
YOU.\*



\*See Issue 216 -- Todd.



YOU WANT  
TO KILL  
ME...? GO  
AHEAD.

BUT IT WON'T  
BE BECAUSE OF  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO YOU. MY HANDS  
ARE CLEAN ON  
THAT ONE.

YOU  
HEAR ME,  
BASTARDS!  
I'M... CLEAN...  
ON THAT  
ONE.





THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN. EVEN WHEN I TRIED TO WARN THEM.

ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT YOU.

MORQUE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK

NAME John Doe

NEXT OF KIN John Doe

HOME ADDRESS 123 Main St

CORONER John Doe

AGE 26

HEIGHT 5'11"

SEX M

YES... AT FIRST WE THOUGHT YOU WERE THE MATCH WE WANTED BUT AFTER A FEW WEEKS IT BECAME APPARENT THE READINGS WEREN'T WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR. SO I WROTE THEM A REPORT.

MORQUE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK

NAME John Doe

NEXT OF KIN John Doe

HOME ADDRESS 123 Main St

CORONER John Doe

AGE 26

HEIGHT 5'11"

SEX M

DE # 28

I KNOW YOU AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE THIS-- BECAUSE YOU THINK I'M JUST TRYING TO SAVE MY LIFE-- BUT I PUT IT IN THE REPORT. ALL OF IT! THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN. WYNN WAS BECOMING DETACHED FROM THE DAILY MEETINGS, AND KRAMER, HE WAS JUST BECOMING...

MORQUE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK

NAME John Doe

NEXT OF KIN John Doe

HOME ADDRESS 123 Main St

CORONER John Doe

AGE 33

HEIGHT 6'3"

SEX M

DE # 32495

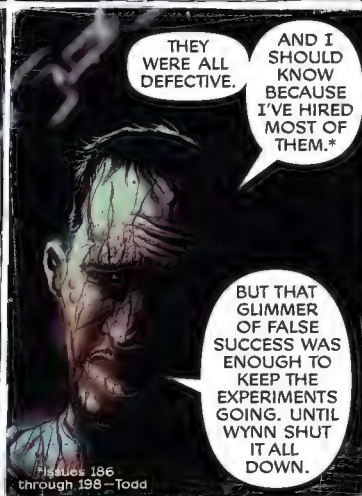
DELUSIONAL.

SO THEY PUSHED ME OUT OF THE WAY AND WENT FORWARD. I ONLY HEARD ABOUT SOME OF THE SHIT THAT WENT ON AFTER THAT. CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY, RICHARD. MOST PATIENTS DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT OF THE LABS BREATHING.



AND BECAUSE OF FREAKS LIKE YOU-- THEY CONTINUED TO DELUDE THEMSELVES, THINKING THEY'D SOMEHOW TAKEN THEIR WORK TO THE NEXT LEVEL. BUT THE PATIENTS WERE DEFECTIVE...





THEY  
WERE ALL  
DEFECTIVE.

AND I  
SHOULD  
KNOW  
BECAUSE  
I'VE HIRED  
MOST OF  
THEM.\*

BUT THAT  
GLIMMER  
OF FALSE  
SUCCESS  
WAS  
ENOUGH TO  
KEEP THE  
EXPERIMENTS  
GOING. UNTIL  
WYNN SHUT  
IT ALL  
DOWN.

Issues 186  
through 198 - Todd



SURELY, KRAMER,  
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND  
THEIR POSITION. NONE  
OF THEM ARE WILLING TO  
COMPROMISE THEMSELVES  
OR THEIR MONEY ANY  
FURTHER.

ACTING  
FOOLISHLY  
WON'T  
CHANGE  
ANYTHING.

NO!

WE'RE  
TOO CLOSE!  
I JUST **NEED**  
ONE MORE AND  
THIS TIME IT'LL  
WORK. YOU  
GO TELL  
THEM!

THIS  
TIME IT'LL  
WORK!



PATIENT 46  
WAS THE LAST OF THEM.  
AND TO KRAMER'S CREDIT--  
46 WAS AUGMENTED MORE  
THAN THE OTHERS AND HAD  
THE LEAST AMOUNT OF  
MENTAL INSTABILITY.

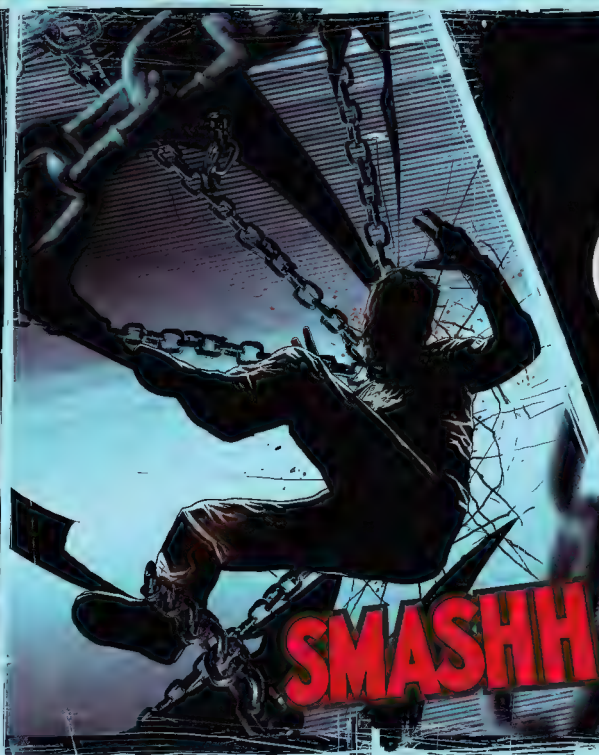


SO MAYBE  
IN TIME THEY  
MIGHT HAVE  
SUCCEEDED.

BUT WHEN  
JASON WYNN  
WANTS SOMETHING  
TO GO AWAY. IT  
JUST VANISHES.







YOU NEED TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND. WAS IT KRAMER OR WAS IT WYNN THAT RAN THE SHOW?

IT DEPENDS...  
KOFF...  
WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



NEAR THE END. WHO WAS GIVING THE ORDERS THEN?



KRAMER WAS-- FOR THE MOST PART. BUT WHEN HE BECAME UNHINGED, THEY SAID WYNN AND HIS GROUP ASSERTED THEMSELVES. AND A POWER PLAY BROKE OUT.



THAT'S WHEN WYNN CALLED IN SOME OF HIS OUTSIDE CONTACTS TO TIP THE SCALES IN HIS DIRECTION. HE TRIED TO SMOTHER KRAMER SLOWLY, LIKE HE DID TO THE REST OF US... UNGH!

SNIKKKT

SNIKKKT





SO NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT?

AND YOUR REPORTS TRIED TO HELP THE PATIENTS?

NO!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING!



THEN ASK HIM WHY HE TRIED TO HIRE ME AFTER I ESCAPED.



YOU HEARD THE MAN...



AAAAAYYYYY



WHY'D YOU TRY AND HIRE HIM?



I WAS TRYING TO HELP THEM!

IS THAT SO?

EXPLOITING THE 'DEFECTIVE' PATIENTS INTO A LIFE OF CRIME WAS YOUR WAY OF HELPING? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?

NO... THEY... I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.

THERE'S ALWAYS A CHOICE! EVERY TIME WE MOVE, OR ACT, OR SPEAK--WE MAKE THOSE DECISIONS OURSELVES. SADLY, MOST OF US WANT TO BLAME OUR OWN ACTIONS ON OTHERS. THE ONLY THING OTHER PEOPLE CAN DO IS BE CATALYSTS--AND WE ALL GET TO ACT ACCORDINGLY. SO DON'T YOU DARE LOOK AT ME AND SAY WITH A STRAIGHT FACE THAT SOMEONE ELSE FORCED YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE PATIENTS AGAINST YOUR WILL!

YOU WERE THE ONE THAT SENT THOSE VILLAINS AFTER TO ME.\* YOU WERE THE ONE THAT GAVE THEM THEIR ORDERS! YOU WERE THE ONE THAT TOLD THEM TO KILL ME!

SO DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE **INNOCENT!**

\*Issue 187--Todd

\*Issue 198--Todd

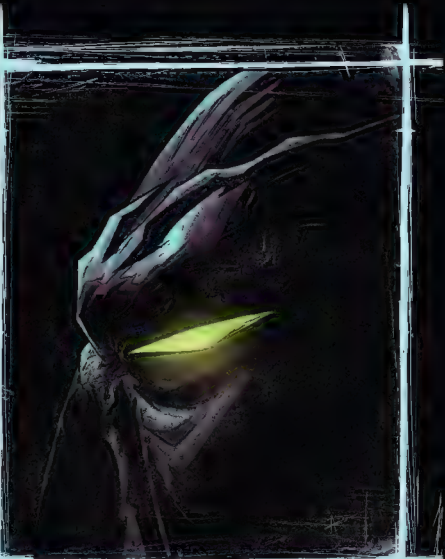




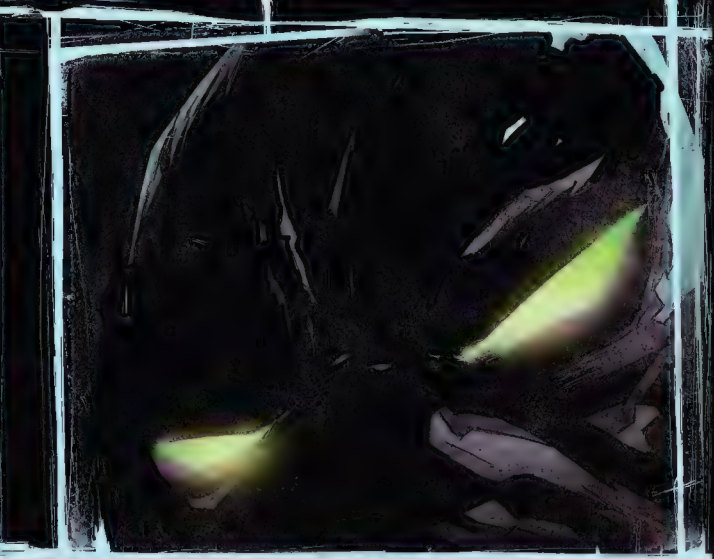
DON'T TELL  
ME YOUR  
HANDS ARE  
**CLEAN!**



SPAWN!  
YOU'RE  
KILLING  
HIM!



SKRITCH  
SKRITCH



NOT  
QUITE.



I JUST  
WANT HIM  
TO FEEL WHAT  
IT'S LIKE WHEN  
SOMEONE  
WANTS YOU  
DEAD.





SPAWN...



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO HERE?  
I DON'T THINK WE'RE GETTING MUCH MORE FROM HIM.

I DIDN'T ASK YOUR OPINION.

WHATEVER!

IT'S YOUR SHOW, BUD. YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO. I'M DONE WITH THIS.



GOOD LUCK, SYKES.



RICHARD...

...I'M SORRY.



IT'S WAY TOO LATE FOR THAT.





IT LOOKS  
LIKE SYKES  
WILL BE OFF  
THE BOARD  
SOON.

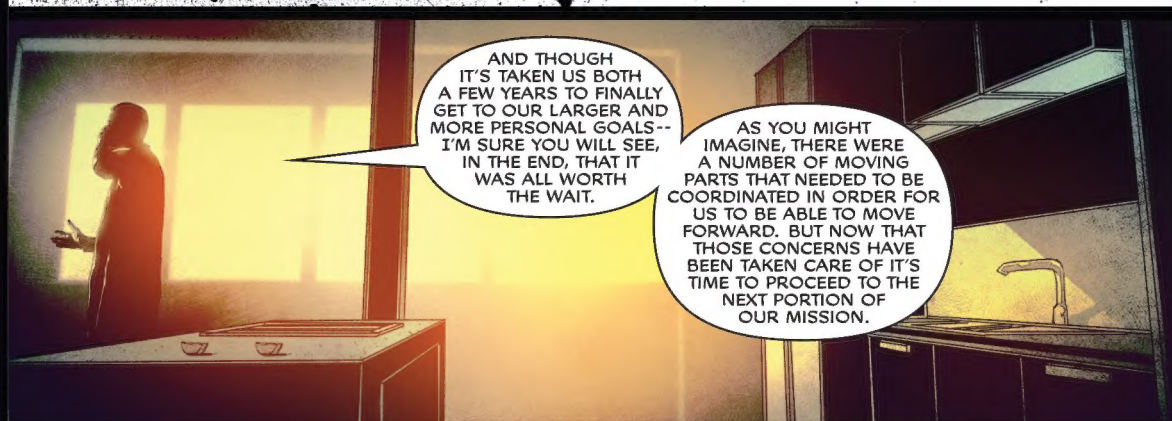
JUST  
LIKE YOU  
WANTED.





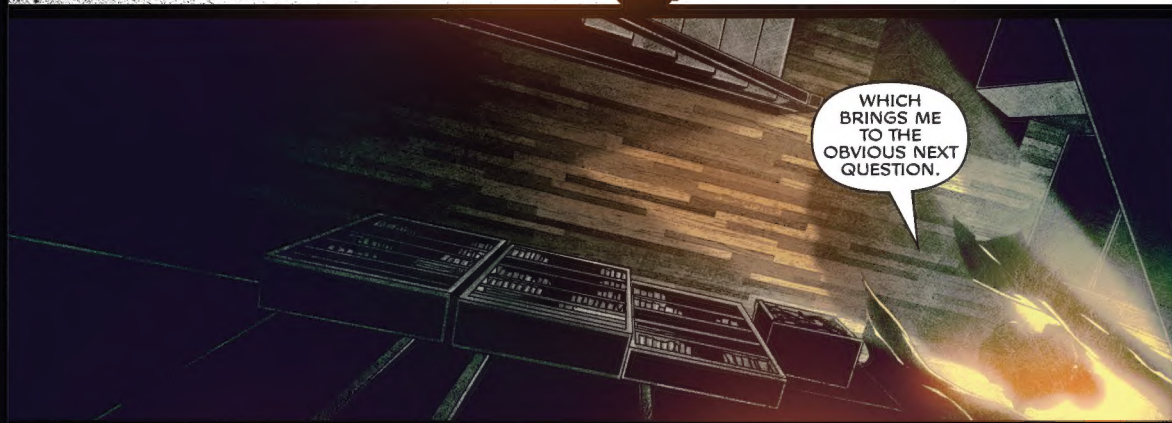


THAT'S  
EXCELLENT,  
RICHARD. YOU SHOULD  
BE COMMENDED ON  
THE WONDERFUL JOB  
YOU'VE BEEN  
DOING.



AND THOUGH  
IT'S TAKEN US BOTH  
A FEW YEARS TO FINALLY  
GET TO OUR LARGER AND  
MORE PERSONAL GOALS--  
I'M SURE YOU WILL SEE,  
IN THE END, THAT IT  
WAS ALL WORTH  
THE WAIT.

AS YOU MIGHT  
IMAGINE, THERE WERE  
A NUMBER OF MOVING  
PARTS THAT NEEDED TO BE  
COORDINATED IN ORDER FOR  
US TO BE ABLE TO MOVE  
FORWARD. BUT NOW THAT  
THOSE CONCERNS HAVE  
BEEN TAKEN CARE OF IT'S  
TIME TO PROCEED TO THE  
NEXT PORTION OF  
OUR MISSION.



WHICH  
BRINGS ME  
TO THE  
OBVIOUS NEXT  
QUESTION.



IS OUR  
TARGET  
READY?

I BELIEVE  
SO.



ONCE HE FINISHES HIS CURRENT BUSINESS I'LL GENTLY PERSUADE HIM ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT.

HOW DIFFICULT WILL THAT BE?

NOT VERY. SYKES DID A GREAT JOB OF GIVING JUST ENOUGH INFO WITHOUT BEING TOO DETAILED.

AND SO FAR THE TARGET DOESN'T SUSPECT ANY-THING?

NOT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL.

GOOD, THOUGH IT'S A PITY I CAN'T BE THERE TO SEE SYKES TRY AND WEASEL HIS WAY OUT OF A NO WIN PROPOSITION. THE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE OF THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN PRICELESS.

I'LL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS LATER.

PLEASE DO. IN THE MEANTIME... WHEN WILL I BE SEEING THE TWO OF YOU?

EXPECT US TO HEAD YOUR WAY THE MOMENT I UTTER THE 'MAGIC WORDS'...



"... SPAWN--  
I KNOW WHERE  
**JASON  
WYNN**  
IS AT!"

NEXT ISSUE:  
THE **SHOWDOWN**







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE